

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should strengthen all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules should serve the

public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. This media concentration hurts our democratic processes and supports a corporate and economic agenda that leads to increasing concentrations of wealth and power.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC miss the point completely concerning the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation

have had on media diversity and the broad coverage of important issues.

While there may indeed be more sources

of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become much more limited and the selection of issues covered left to corporate elites.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. As the FCC has allowed our media outlets to merge, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints has been compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country (including Chicago)

and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The rarified, lawyerly atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an appropriate decision-making venue in a democracy when questions as profound as the

freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to

have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

With the deepest concern,  
Tom Wilson